

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

USDEL SALT TWO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

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GENEVA FOR KRAUS ALSO

VIENNA FOR MBFR DELEGATION

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HELSINKI FOR MPT

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. THURSDAY FRIDAY PAPERS FEATURE WATERGATE. THURSDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAD US SEES DEAL ON MBFR PARLEY, ALSO PACIFIC NATIONS PROTEST FRENCH TEST. SOME COMMENT.

1 A. FRIDAY WASHPOST INSIDE HAS US, RUSSIANS STUDYING NEW WEAPONS PACT, ALSO PEPSI SIGNS TRADE PACT WITH RUSSIA, ALSO SOVIET ATOMIC TEST. NYTIMES HAD MIDDLETON WASHINGTON, OIL IS SHIFTING US STRATEGIC INTERESTS TO PERSIAN GULF, WASH-STAR FRONTPAGES KELLY, 3 SOVIET MISSILE SUBS PATROL OFF EAST COAST.

2. SALT. WASHPOST MARDER STRESSES US AND RUSSIA ARE CONSIDERING A POSSIBLE FIRST STEP MOVE TOWARD A PERMANENT LIMIT ON OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS THAT COULD BE MADE PUBLIC DURING BREZHNEV VISIT, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAYING BOTH NATIONS ARE INDEPENDENTLY EXPLORING PROSPECTS FOR PRODUCING SUCH AN INITIAL ACCORD. THE OBJECTIVE WOULD BE,

SAYS MARDER, TO DISPLAY EVIDENCE OF NEW NUCLEAR NEGOTIATING PROGRESS DURING SUMMIT TALKS PROBABLY IN JUNE, MARDER ADDING THAT WITH GENEVA TALKS IN RECESS UNTIL MAY 4 JOHNSON HAS RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS. ACCORDING MARDER, A SESSION OF NSC VERIFICATION PANEL IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK AND THIS IS GROUP WHICH WOULD CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF ANY PARTIAL ACCORD WITH RUSSIANS BUT A PERMANENT COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON OFFENSIVES IS EXPECTED TO TAKE YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH. MARDER NOTES ROGERS SAYS IN ANNUAL REPORT THAT SALT NEGOTIATIONS ARE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT NOW UNDER NEGOTIATION BETWEEN US RUSSIA, MARDER ADDING THAT ROGERS' REPORT MADE PUBLIC A NEW TERM THAT HAS ENTERED THE LEXICON OF NUCLEAR NEGOTIATING: EQUIVALENCE. THIS TERM, SAYS MARDER, IS A COMPROMISE TO DEAL WITH CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR GREATER EQUALITY OF NUCLEAR FORCE LEVELS IN AN OFFENSIVES TREATY, ROGERS' ANNUAL REPORT SAYING ABM TREATY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED UNTIL PRINCIPLE OF EQUIVALENCE HAD BEEN MET TO SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES, AND THERE SHOULD NOT BE ONE STANDARD FOR DEFENSIVE AND ANOTHER FOR OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, EQUIVALENCE BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF COMPARABLE SECURITY
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AND NO UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE TO EITHER SIDE. MORE AMPLIFICATION OF CURRENT US SALT POLICY, SAYS MARDER, IS EXPECTED TO BE IN PRESIDENT, S WORLD REPORT NEXT MONTH.

2 A. TODAY'S NYTIMES HAS OP-ED PAGE COLUMN BY THOMAS HALSTED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION, WHO SAYS EARLY INDICATIONS FROM SALT TWO ARE THAT NIXON ADMINISTRATION MAY BE TAKING WRONG STEPS AT TIME WHEN STRONG CENTRALIZED EFFORT TO DEAL WITH ARMS CONTROL PRO-

BLEMS IS NEEDED, CITING REDUCTION IN ACDA BUDGET. HALSTED NOTES THAT SOME CRITICS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER ACDA'S NEGOTIATING ROLE AS INFLUENCING STRATEGIC POLICY RATHER THAN VICE VERSA, OR HAVE BLAMED ACDA FOR PERPETUATING UNDUE ADMINISTRATION RELIANCE ON A MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION PHILOSOPHY. HALSTED HOLDS THAT RESTRAINTS ON PARTICULARLY DESTABILIZING WEAPONS PROGRAMS; INCLUDING REDUCTIONS OF US MIRV'S IN EXCHANGE FOR IMPORTANT SOVIET CONCESSIONS, SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY AND IMMEDIATELY EXPLORED IN GENEVA.

3. SUBS. WASHSTAR KELLY SAYS AT LEAST THREE SOVIET SUBMARINES CARRYING A TOTAL OF 35 NUCLEAR-TIPPED MISSILES ARE NOW ON CONSTANT PATROL OFF THE US EAST COAST, NAVY SOURCES SAY. THESE YANKEE CLASS SUBS ARE SIMILAR TO

POLARIS SUBS WHICH HAVE BEEN MAINTAINING SIMILAR PATROLS OFF SOVIET SHORES FOR MORE THAN DECADE, SAYS KELLY, WHO ADDS THAT SUBS OFF BERMUDA ARE CAPABLE OF ATTACKING ALL MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS AND BOMBER BASES EAST OF MISSISSIPPI. KELLY SAYS SOVIET SUBS HAVE MOVED THEIR STATION WEST AND FROM NOVA SCOTIA AND BERMUDA AREAS WOULD NO LONGER NEED TO LEAVE STATION TO ATTACK AMERICA AND THEREBY GIVE WARNING OF POSSIBLE ATTACK. NEW DELTA SUBS CARRYING MISSILES WITH 46 OO- MILE RANGE CAN ATTACK US FROM NORWEGIAN SEA.

4. TROOP REDUCTION. THURSDAY NYTIMES GWERTZMAN REPORTED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID A BREAK SEEMED NEAR IN LENGTHY IMPASSE AT VIENNA OVER WHETHER TROOPS IN HUNGARY SHOULD BE INCLUDED, AS A DEAL WORKED OUT RECENTLY BY SOVIET UNION, US, AND SOME OF THEIR ALLIES APPEARS LIKELY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM AND TO PRODUCE AN AMBIGUOUS AGREE-UNCLASSIFIED

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MENT ALLOWING THE FULLSCALE CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL. GWERTZMAN SAYS OFFICIALS, IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS, SAID JONATHAN DEAN FLEW TO WASHINGTON LAST WEEKEND TO CONSULT ON MONDAY, LEAVING FOR BRUSSELS WEDNESDAY WHERE HE WAS TO BRIEF NATO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FORMULA BEING WORKED OUT WITH RUSSIANS, WHICH WAS UNDERSTOOD TO MEET THE WESTERN REQUEST THAT HUNGARY PARTICIPATE IN FULL-SCALE CONFERENCE WITHOUT PREJUDICING THE QUESTION WHETHER FORCES ON HER SOIL WOULD BE SUBJECT TO REDUCTION. GWERTZMAN ADDS THAT NSC LAST WEEK APPROVED AMERICAN NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO NATO ALLIES FOR DISCUSSION THIS SPRING AND SUMMER IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE. GWERTZMAN SAYS NEGOTIATING DIFFICULTIES ARE EXEMPLIFIED BY INABILITY THUS FAR TO AGREE ON A TITLE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT BALANCED CUTS. GWERTZMAN SAYS US HAS REMINDED SOVIETS ON SEVERAL OCCA-

SIONS IT CONSIDERS PROGRESS AT VIENNA AS IMPORTANT AS PROGRESS AT HELSINKI WHERE PARTIES ARE WINDING UP DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND, IF THERE ARE NO LAST- MINUTE HITCHES, WILL CONVERT INTO A FULL- SCALE FONMIN MEETING LATE IN JUNE. IF VIENNA TALKS ARE STILL STALEMATED THEN, SAYS GWERTZMAN, US AND SOME ALLIES MIGHT REFUSE TO ATTEND THE FULL CONFERENCE, OFFICIALS NOTED, AND THIS IMPLICIT THREAT WAS THOUGHT RESPONSIBLE FOR RUSSIAN WILLINGNESS TO REACH A FORMULA IN VIENNA. MOREOVER, SOME OFFICIALS BELIEVE BREZHNEV WANTS TO RESOLVE PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS ON FORCE REDUCTIONS BEFORE HE GOES TO BONN NEXT MONTH.

5. TESTS. THURSDAY WASHPOST HAD BRIEF FROM APIA, SAMOA, REPORTING THE SEVEN- NATION SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM CONDEMNED FRANCE FOR ITS FAILURE TO ABANDON NUCLEAR TESTING IN PACIFIC AND ACCUSED FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF DEPLORABLE INDIFFERENCE TO THE WELL- BEING OF PACIFIC PEOPLES. ITEM ADDS THAT IN PARIS AUSTRALIAN JUSTICE MINISTER MURPHY ASKED FONMIN JOBERT TO HALT TESTING, SAYING EVERYONE IN AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN PHYSICALLY AFFECTED BY THE ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTS.

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5 A. THURSDAY NYTIMES TRUMBULL FROM APIA REPORTED HEADS OF THE SEVEN GOVERNMENTS DREW UP A STIFF PROTEST AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS IN ATMOSPHERE, ESPECIALLY THOSE BY FRANCE OVER SOUTH PACIFIC, NAMING AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, NAURU, TONGA, FIJI, WESTERN SAMOA AND COOK ISLANDS. TRUMBULL SAYS THESE NATIONS ARE TO APPROACH BRITAIN AND US, ALSO HAVING PACIFIC POSSESSIONS, TO JOIN IN PRESSURING FRANCE, BUT HEATH HAS ALREADY TURNED DOWN AN APPEAL FROM NEW ZEALAND BECAUSE OF BRITAIN' S DELICATE RELATIONSHIP WITH FRENCH IN EEC.

5 B. FRIDAY PAPERS HAVE BRIEF REPORTS FROM UPPSALA AP AND AEC WASHINGTON REUTER OF A SOVIET UNDERGROUND EXPLOSION IN SIBERIA, REUTER ADDING STATISTICS ON SOVIET SHOTS IN 1972. PORTER

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